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[EPA Asks Full D.C. Circuit for Rehearing Of Decision to Vacate Cross-State Air Rule](#)

[European Commission Proposes Regulation Governing Users of Genetic Resources](#)

[Supreme Court Agrees to Review Roundup Ready Seed Patent Decision](#)

[Group to Discuss Wyoming Well Samplings Oct. 10](#)

[Preservation Group to Buy Oil, Gas Leases On Public Land in Wyoming to Block Drilling](#)

[Analysis of EPA Data Finds Few Violations By Large Private Water Utilities in Five Years](#)

[Connecticut Energy Plan Emphasizes Natural Gas Use, Efficiency, Less Pollution](#)

[DOE to Launch Innovation Effort For Clean Energy Manufacturing Sector](#)

[EPA to Allow Continued Production Of Some Diesel Fuel Containing Sulfur](#)

[Oil Companies, TransCanada Agree to Plans For Pipeline, LNG Export Terminal in Alaska](#)

[USGS Estimates 38 Trillion Cubic Feet Of Natural Gas in Utica Shale Deposits](#)

[Japan Plans to Expand List of Chemicals Subject to Stricter Maritime Shipping Rules](#)

[NPDES Exemption Plan for Logging Roads Draws Much Support, Cautionary Warnings](#)

[Bayer to Pay \\$13,900 Civil Penalty For Distribution of Mislabeled Pesticides](#)

[EPA Urged to Classify Chemical Analyses As 'Highly Influential Scientific Assessments'](#)

[EPA Urged to Provide Specifics in Strategy To Improve Human Health Assessments](#)

[EPA Releases Interactive Map for National Estuaries](#)

[EPA to Hold Webinar on New Water Quality Portal](#)

[EPA Issues Guidelines on Water Reuse For Use by State Officials, Other Authorities](#)

[U.S., California Officials Give Final Approval To Plan for San Joaquin River Restoration](#)

[The Unfinished Story of the Rio+20 Conference](#)

[LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR](#)

[PRESIDENT'S CALENDAR](#)

[Comment Deadlines](#)

[OCTOBER 5 FEDERAL REGISTER](#)

[OCTOBER 9 FEDERAL REGISTER](#)

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[Cases Reported](#)

[Special Reports](#)

[Regulatory Agenda](#)

[Congressional Calendar](#)

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Tuesday, October 9, 2012 · Number 194

NEWS

Air Pollution

EPA Asks Full D.C. Circuit for Rehearing Of Decision to Vacate Cross-State Air Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency on Oct. 5 asked the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for a rehearing of a decision vacating the agency's rule addressing air pollution that crosses state lines (EME Homer...

Biodiversity

European Commission Proposes Regulation Governing Users of Genetic Resources

BRUSSELS—The European Union would establish a list of "trusted collections" of seeds and other genetic resources and require researchers and companies to declare that they are in compliance with relevant laws when importing...

Biotechnology

Supreme Court Agrees to Review Roundup Ready Seed Patent Decision

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed Oct. 5 to review a case involving Monsanto Co.'s patent rights for Roundup Ready® soybeans (Bowman v. Monsanto Co.U.S., No. 11-796, review granted 10/5/12)....

Drilling

Group to Discuss Wyoming Well Samplings Oct. 10

DENVER—A working group focused on pollution in the groundwater aquifer near Pavillion, Wyo., will meet Oct. 10 in Riverton, Wyo., focusing chiefly on reports released recently by the U.S. Geological Survey, Keith Guille, spokesman...

Drilling

Preservation Group to Buy Oil, Gas Leases On Public Land in Wyoming to Block Drilling

DENVER—A preservation group has agreed to pay an energy company \$8.75 million for its oil and gas leases on 58,000 acres of public land in Wyoming to prevent drilling. ...

Drinking Water

Analysis of EPA Data Finds Few Violations By Large Private Water Utilities in Five Years

Large private drinking water companies had few drinking water violations in the past five years, and investor-owned companies have "consistently been head and shoulders" above municipal and small local utilities in compliance,...

Energy

Connecticut Energy Plan Emphasizes Natural Gas Use, Efficiency, Less Pollution

BOSTON—Connecticut plans to increase residents' use of natural gas, expand efficiency programs to help individuals and

businesses reduce energy use, and cut air pollutant emissions, according to a draft energy strategy unveiled...

Energy

DOE to Launch Innovation Effort

For Clean Energy Manufacturing Sector

The Energy Department will launch an initiative in early 2013 that will bring a clean energy perspective to existing efforts to restore the nation's global manufacturing edge, a department official said Oct. 5....

Energy

EPA to Allow Continued Production

Of Some Diesel Fuel Containing Sulfur

Petroleum refiners will be allowed to continue producing diesel fuel containing up to 500 parts per million sulfur for use in older locomotive and marine engines beyond 2014 as part of an Environmental Protection Agency direct final rule to...

Energy

Oil Companies, TransCanada Agree to Plans

For Pipeline, LNG Export Terminal in Alaska

Three major oil companies and a Canadian pipeline company said Oct. 3 that they have agreed on preliminary plans for an 800-mile natural gas pipeline and a liquefied natural gas export terminal that could transport Alaska's prolific North...

Energy

USGS Estimates 38 Trillion Cubic Feet

Of Natural Gas in Utica Shale Deposits

The U.S. Geological Survey's first estimate of natural gas resources in the largely unexplored Utica shale formation of the Northeast shows a potential of 38 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered, technically recoverable supply....

Maritime Affairs

Japan Plans to Expand List of Chemicals

Subject to Stricter Maritime Shipping Rules

TOKYO—Japan's Ministry of the Environment is preparing to add seven composite chemicals to a list of substances subject to maritime shipping rules as stipulated by the International Maritime Organization, a ministry official...

Natural Resources

NPDES Exemption Plan for Logging Roads

Draws Much Support, Cautionary Warnings

State and local officials and commercial interests have expressed support for an Environmental Protection Agency proposed rule that would reformulate the legal basis for exempting logging roads from Clean Water Act permitting requirements....

Pesticides

Bayer to Pay \$13,900 Civil Penalty

For Distribution of Mislabeled Pesticides

Bayer CropScience will pay a \$13,900 civil penalty in a settlement over alleged violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), according to an administrative consent agreement between the company and the...

Risk Assessment

EPA Urged to Classify Chemical Analyses

As 'Highly Influential Scientific Assessments'

The Environmental Protection Agency should classify as "highly influential scientific assessments" seven risk assessments it plans to have peer reviewed, the American Chemistry Council recently told the agency....

Risk Assessment

EPA Urged to Provide Specifics in Strategy

To Improve Human Health Assessments

The Environmental Protection Agency's strategy for improving human health risk assessments should describe specific staff practices that prevent it from conducting the high-quality analyses that the agency is encouraging, the American...

Water Pollution

EPA Releases Interactive Map for National Estuaries

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Oct. 5 that it has released its first interactive map, NEPmap, which contains

more than a decade's worth of water quality and habitat data for estuaries of national significance. The NEPmap...

Water Pollution

EPA to Hold Webinar on New Water Quality Portal

The Environmental Protection Agency's Watershed Academy will hold a webcast seminar Oct. 23 on its new Water Quality Portal, which brings together data from several sources. The webinar, which will run from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., will include...

Water Resources

EPA Issues Guidelines on Water Reuse

For Use by State Officials, Other Authorities

The Environmental Protection Agency has released a set of guidelines for water reuse to help states develop and implement water reuse regulations and serve as a reference on water reuse practices....

Water Resources

U.S., California Officials Give Final Approval

To Plan for San Joaquin River Restoration

LOS ANGELES-Interior Secretary Ken Salazar signed a record of decision Oct. 4 selecting a plan to restore water flows to a 153-mile stretch of the San Joaquin River to support sustainable fish populations and have minimal impacts on long-term...

BNA INSIGHTS

The Unfinished Story of the Rio+20 Conference

Two dominant story lines emerged from the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 20-22, 2012. According to one, the conference was essentially a failure because of its tepid response to the enormous and related...

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